

sniper rifles, would have gone a long way towards achieving the goal of securing our nation against the threat of terrorism.

I believe that successfully addressing our national security needs while protecting our basic freedoms and civil liberties requires continual Congressional oversight, and I will continue to work to assert the role of this body in carrying out this grave responsibility. I will also continue to fight for increased funding for state and local law enforcement, as well as for increased security measures to protect our nation's public transportation and critical infrastructure systems. I would like to have an opportunity to vote for a reauthorization of the USA PATRIOT Act that more perfectly strikes a balance between civil liberties and national security, and am hopeful that the Senate will address the aforementioned issues of concern. It is my understanding that the corresponding bill approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee today would incorporate greater checks on several of these controversial powers, and I remain open to reevaluating my vote should a bill incorporating such modifications come before the House of Representatives in the near future. The bill in front of us today, however, does not adequately reform parts of this law which I believe violate important civil liberties. Likewise, it fails to provide for continued congressional oversight of many questionable provisions. I cannot vote for this measure, as it fails to adequately safeguard our country's fundamental freedoms.

#### USA PATRIOT AND TERRORISM PREVENTION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 21, 2005*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3199) to extend and modify authorities needed to combat terrorism, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 3199, the USA PATRIOT Act Reauthorization. We must provide law enforcement all the tools they need to keep us safe in today's changing world, but we need a bill that strikes a more appropriate balance between civil liberties and fighting the war on terrorism.

Since the enactment of the USA PATRIOT Act in the wake of 9/11, I have met with many constituents and countless groups to discuss the details of this controversial legislation. At a town hall meeting I hosted, the U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island and a representative of the state's American Civil Liberties Union passionately argued their cases. Some agreed with the U.S. Attorney that only the USA PATRIOT Act can prevent us from another attack. However, most of that crowd, as well as most Rhode Islanders, worry that we have already ceded too much ground on our precious civil liberties. In my state, six cities and towns have passed resolutions opposing parts of the USA PATRIOT Act, and my constituents understand what this bill means to them and their freedom.

Keeping America safe is not a partisan issue, but unfortunately, several provisions of

this bill are. We could have reached a bipartisan solution to extend the provisions that are effective, such as permitting searches to the Internet and e-mail, and modify the provisions that need changes, such as the searching of library records and "sneak and peek" searches, to which Congress has already voiced strong and clear opposition. Instead, we forgo Congressional oversight and take away future opportunities for review.

I am most troubled that the Rules Committee has not permitted a single amendment to determine if 15 controversial provisions should expire. Sunsets require Congress to review the Act, extend what is working, and change what is not. Sunsets would make the bill better, and ensure regular oversight, but the rule does not permit us to vote on this important modification. Simply adding sunsets could have made the H.R. 3199 more palatable, and I am confident it could have had strong bipartisan support. However, the Republicans have again chosen division over unity.

I recognize the need for our laws to keep pace with new technology and a changing world, and I am committed to ensuring our law enforcement has the tools they need to keep our nation safe. However, providing these tools need not come at the expense of the liberties and freedoms that we hold so dear. If we cede these, we have already given up the very values the terrorists are trying to destroy.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to make many changes in H.R. 3199 to fight terrorism and protect our freedoms. I am encouraged that the Senate is taking a more bipartisan approach to renewal of the USA PATRIOT Act, and I look forward to a conference agreement that we can all support to protect our liberties and our country.

#### FREEDOM FOR GUIDO SIGLER AMAYA

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Guido Sigler Amaya, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Sigler Amaya is a member of the Alternative Option Movement, and an activist of the pro-democracy opposition in Cuba. According to Amnesty International, he has been detained and harassed several times in the past. He was incarcerated in the totalitarian gulag in December 1999, after participating in a peaceful demonstration to celebrate the 51st anniversary on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2002, he was again detained when he attempted to meet at a home in Havana to discuss human rights.

Despite the constant threats, despite being previously incarcerated in the gulag, Mr. Sigler Amaya never gave up his dignified struggle for democracy and basic human rights. Unfortunately, as part of the dictator's condemnable, March 2003, crackdown, Mr. Sigler Amaya was arrested. After a sham trial, he was sentenced to 20 years in the totalitarian gulag.

Let me be very clear, Mr. Sigler Amaya is languishing in the depraved conditions of the totalitarian gulag because of his peaceful ac-

tions to promote basic human rights: The U.S. State Department describes the conditions in the gulag as, "harsh and life threatening." It is a crime of the highest order that brave men and women are imprisoned in these nightmarish conditions simply for their belief in freedom.

Tragically, Mr. Guido Sigler Amaya is not the only member of his family sentenced to the totalitarian gulag. His brothers, Ariel and Miguel Sigler Amaya, whom I will speak about in the coming weeks, have been sentenced to 20 years and over 2 years in the gulag, respectively. These three brothers are brilliant and admirable examples of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how severe the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women who represent the very best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is completely unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, these three brothers are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional release of Guido Sigler Amaya, Ariel Sigler Amaya, Miguel Sigler Amaya and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

#### CELEBRATING THE UNVEILING OF THOMAS JEFFERSON STATUE IN JEFFERSON PARK

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the citizens of the Jefferson Park neighborhood of Chicago in celebrating the unveiling of the new statue of Thomas Jefferson. The ceremony that will take place tomorrow is the culmination of years of work by many members of the community, and I am pleased to offer my gratitude and congratulations on this exciting event.

Jefferson Park, on Chicago's northwest side, is one of the most unique and interesting neighborhoods in Chicago and I am proud to represent its citizens in the U.S. House of Representatives. The mix of cultural and ethnic divergences is unrivaled in our great city. The Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce is one of the most active organizations in my district, and I applaud their efforts to honor our nation's 3rd President with this outstanding statue.

The bronze statue, the first life-sized statue of President Jefferson in the state of Illinois, was created by sculptor, Edward Hlavka. It depicts President Jefferson at a writing table signing a copy of the Declaration of Independence. Surrounding the statue are 13 pedestals representing the original American colonies, along with the inscription of one his most famous quotes, "The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government."

The statue will adorn the front of the Chicago Transit Authority station in Jefferson Park, the major hub for commuters on the northwest side, and was made possible through the leadership of the Jefferson Park Chamber, Alderman Patrick J. Levar, State

Representative Joseph M. Lyons, and countless other members of the Jefferson Park neighborhood.

Mr. Speaker, the City of Chicago and the 5th District of Illinois are truly honored to welcome the new Thomas Jefferson statue to Jefferson Park, and I thank all of those responsible for making this possible.

#### TRIBUTE TO HARRIET HENDERSON

##### HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2005*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to commend one of my constituents, Harriet Henderson, on her outstanding service as the Director of Public Libraries in Montgomery County, Maryland.

As Director for the past eight years, Ms. Henderson has helped make the Montgomery County library system the envy of library systems throughout the country. The Montgomery County library system consistently ranks among the nation's top ten, often noted as "one of the best . . . in the country." Working to increase library hours and expand the materials collection, Henderson has demonstrated a profound commitment to improving the quality and accessibility of our region's public libraries.

The impact of Ms. Henderson's work is not limited to her role in Montgomery County. A former president of the Public Library Association and the Virginia Library Association, Ms. Henderson has made contributions on a national scale. She has also served in leadership positions with the Urban Libraries Council as well as other organizations.

Ms. Henderson will soon assume a new position as Director of the Richmond Public Libraries. I am confident that she will excel in all of her future endeavors and that the Richmond libraries will benefit greatly from her wisdom and experience.

I applaud Harriet Henderson and wish her continued success in the years ahead.

#### REGARDING THE RETIREMENT OF HENRY JAMES "JIM" SCHWEITER

##### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2005*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, change is a constant here in the House, and I suppose that's a good thing. It keeps fresh ideas and energy coming in. But sometimes it sure is hard to say farewell to trusted friends.

As you know, I never miss an opportunity to quote my fellow Missourian Harry Truman. In this case, the occasion is bittersweet.

Harry Truman minted one of the axioms of Washington. "It is amazing what you can accomplish if you do not care who gets the credit."

To many in Washington, Mr. Speaker, that phrase may sound quaint. After all, so much of service in Congress is about credit. We issue press releases every day to make sure the folks back home know we're working for them. Much of what we are able to do is tied to the credit we get for our achievements.

Let me tell you about someone for whom that's not true.

Jim Schweiter has lived Harry Truman's words, not only during his service here but throughout his career. Jim is retiring from the Armed Services Committee staff at the end of next month. Thanks to our bipartisan structure, he has the official title of counsel. But for the last five and a half years, he has been, in effect, the minority staff director. And he has been my close and trusted friend.

Jim came to the Armed Services Committee from the Air Force in 1988. He brought with him a law degree and experience as a trial lawyer and judge advocate. But he also brought some things you can't learn.

Jim brought sound and mature judgment, informed by the kind of strong moral compass that informs both what should be done and how it should be done. When confronted with a difficult policy question, Jim frequently asks "What is in the best interest for the Republic?" I believe the Republic is the better for many of the policy issues on which Jim has had a hand. Jim has been involved in many aspects of the committee's work, serving with the Personnel and Investigations subcommittees, and later as General Counsel and ultimately as Minority Staff Director. In these roles, Jim has never done just what was required of him. He has always sought creative and sound legislative solutions when he saw a way of improving a situation. Though the Reserve Office Personnel Management Act in which he played a key role and the future management and professional development of Judge Advocates are just two examples of the legislation he has helped enact, Jim has frequently been directly involved in improving the lives of our military men and women.

The Armed Services Committee is near unique in the House for its integrated staff and the degree of its bipartisanship. In this, Jim could stand as the exemplar. He served as General Counsel to both Chairman Ron Delums and Chairman Floyd Spence and provided exceptional advice to both. He embodies what we mean by professional bipartisan staff.

He also exemplifies a spirit of service to this House and to the Nation. When I asked him to return to the Committee after his distinguished service in the Department of Defense as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs, Jim did not hesitate. In the time since he has returned, he has not only provided wise counsel at every turn, he has demonstrated strong leadership to the rest of our staff. They are a true team because of that leadership.

Beyond all his other attributes, Jim brought an unwavering patriotism to his position. That might have something to do with Jim's late father, Major General Leo Schweiter, who jumped into Normandy on D-Day and continued distinguished service through Korea and Vietnam. It might have had something to do with growing up in the shadow of the Army War College. But mostly, I think it's just Jim.

While Jim is retiring, there is no doubt that he will continue to have an active career. To the Armed Services Committee, Jim has brought a fierce intellect, an encyclopedic knowledge of House procedure, and an outstanding rapport with both members and staff. Jim's skills could easily carry him through many more careers—as a parliamentarian, a law professor, or a professional hunter—to name just a few. I hope he gets a chance to try them all.

I suspect Jim's heart may be most in the last of these pursuits. Like so many who grow up in central Pennsylvania, Jim is a dedicated outdoorsman. He hunts with his close friends and he has hunted with members of Congress, including our current Chairman DUNCAN HUNTER. He is no more at home than walking the woods. While Jim's new home of Minneapolis won't give him much opportunity to watch his beloved Baltimore Orioles play at home, it will continue to give him many chances to be where he wants to be during hunting season.

Mr. Speaker, as this good servant of the people moves on, and as this invaluable friend gets a little farther away, it is a time of sadness for me. But it is also a challenge to the House. I hope that we can remain the kind of House that continues to inspire and attract people the caliber of Jim Schweiter, people who know that the good of the nation and the merit of ideas come before all else. He is an example for us of what the House should be—and what America deserves.

I know I speak for everyone on the Armed Services Committee in thanking Jim for his years of service and extending my best wishes to Jim and his wife Donna on the next phase of their lives together.

#### VETERANS BUDGET SHORTFALL

##### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 22, 2005*

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to comment on the inadequate Supplemental request that President Bush has sent to the Congress for its approval.

The President has sent up a new supplemental request, this time for Fiscal Year 2006. While the amount of \$1.977 billion sounds like a lot, the devil is in the details.

Of this amount, \$300 million is the additional money for Fiscal Year 2005 that the original supplemental did not include.

Also, the President continues to insist that veterans have not done enough to protect the freedom of this country. He is continuing to insist that a \$250 user fee and an increase in the prescription co-pay be included in the budget.

This House of Representatives, in fact this Congress, has spoken many times against these provisions. They do not want to pass these costs onto the backs of veterans.

Yet again and again, President Bush ignores the wishes of the public and this Congress by submitting a supplemental that includes these legislative policies of his.

I am trying to understand this series of events.

The House passed \$27.8 billion for FY05. The request for the VA in FY06 was the same \$27.8 billion. There was no accounting for inflation, the rapid increase of health care costs in general or the fact that a war was ongoing. Soldiers were to return from Iraq and Afghanistan and would need to be integrated into the system.

George Bush underestimated the problem to the detriment of veterans health.

A first year accounting student could understand that adding more people and services